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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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FROM: (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO: DIA WASH DC//DN-2/DB-4G4//

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IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

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THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424 (U) POUCH[illegible] PREVIOUSLY SUBM[illegible]

1. (U) COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)/SOVIET UNION (UR)

2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) TITLE: MILITARY TRAINING - ARGENTINA RECEIVES SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION 7908 (U).

4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: AB

5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 790811-790820

6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790823

7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790811-790820, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

8. (U) REFERENCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

9. (U) ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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DRAFTER TYPED NAME, TITLE, OFFICE SYMBOL, PHONE & DATE
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
AMB, DCM, POL/R, POL

(TYPED: PENN)

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DATE TIME GROUP

DD FORM 1 DEC 70 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 JUL 68, WHICH WILL BE USED.

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10. (U) ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO

12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: (b)(3):10 USC 424

14. (U) SOURCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO; ~~CAVEATS APPLIED TO PROTECT SOURCES AND COLLECTION METHODS UTILIZED.~~ POUCHED VERSION TO FOLLOW.

16. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SUMMARY: THIS REPORT DESCRIBES GOA/ARMY CINC VIEWS ON THE 7908 SOVIET MILITARY VISIT TO ARGENTINA. IT ALSO NOTES VIEWS OF A MID-GRADE NAVY OFFICER AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON THE SAME TOPIC. FIRST MENTION OF A SOVIET AIR ATTACHE TO ARGENTINA IS INCLUDED.

22. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DETAILS: THIS FIRST PORTION OF THE REPORT FORWARDS AN EXTRACT FROM AN AMEMB CABLE (CITE 6782 DTG 211747Z AUG 79). THE CABLE RELATES A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR CASTRO AND THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY (LTG VIOLA). AFTER HEARING AN EXPRESSION OF U.S. CONCERN OVER THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF A SOVIET GENERAL AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICERS TO ARGENTINA, THE CINC OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY DOWNPLAYED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET VISIT. LTG VIOLA REMARKED THAT THE VISIT WAS STARTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHO HAD APPROACHED THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ON THE POSSIBILITY

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OF DEVELOPING MILITARY CONTACT WITH SOVIET OFFICERS. LTG VIOLA STATED THAT THE JUNTA MEMBERS HAD CONSIDERED THE REQUEST AND AGREED TO PERMIT A VISIT OF ABOUT ONE-WEEK INCLUDING SPEAKING AT SOME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE SOVIETS BE ALLOWED TO GIVE A COURSE IN ARGENTINA. THE PROBABILITY OF A RETURN VISIT BY ARGENTINA WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A PROHIBITION EXPRESSED AGAINST ANY ARGENTINE OFFICER ATTENDING A FORMAL COURSE IN THE SOVIET UNION. LTG VIOLA STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAD NOT YET PURCHASED ANY MATERIAL FROM THE SOVIETS EVENTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ~~ADVANTAGES~~ ADVANTAGEOUS, PRICE-WISE. HE ALSO STATED, WHEN DISCUSSING VOTING IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ARGENTINA WAS ABLE TO GET SUPPORT FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT WAS REJECTED BY THE U.S. AND OTHER SUPPOSEDLY DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. LTG VIOLA SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS FORCING ARGENTINA TO DEAL WITH TRADITIONAL U.S. ENEMIES.

B. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ TO REVIEW SOME LOWER LEVEL ARGENTINE COMMENTS REGARDING THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET OFFICERS; AT A DINNER (b)(3):10 USC 424 ON 790811 (THE FIRST DAY THAT PUBLIC PRESS DISCLOSED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT) [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) [redacted] SAID HE HAD RECEIVED HIS

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FIRST NOTIFICATION FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS THAT VERY DAY AND THAT HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECTS OF SOVIET INVITEES.

C. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Sec. 3.3(b) (1) CALLED Sec. 3.3(b) (1) THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND ASKED IF THAT ORGANIZATION WAS HOSTING THE SOVIET DELEGATION. SOURCE REPLIED THAT ~~HE~~ IT WAS NOT AND WE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE FURTHER AT A LUNCHEON [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) [redacted] AT THAT TIME, SOURCE EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD NOT ~~INVITED~~ OR INITIATED THE SOVIET VISIT; THAT IT WAS BEING HOSTED ENTIRELY BY THE ARMY AND SOURCE STATED THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAD EXPRESSED A NEGATIVE VOTE REGARDING THE VISIT. WHEN ASKED WHAT TYPE OF BUSINESS WAS LIKELY TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS, SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT A TRADE IMBALANCE EXISTING BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES NEEDED TO BE RELIEVED; HE SAID IF MILITARY PURCHASES WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THEN AN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE FOUND BY THE SOVIETS. SOURCE FELT THAT A LIKELY PROSPECT FOR THIS ACTIVITY WOULD BE DEVELOPMENT OF A FISHING PORT AND STATED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT WELL COME UP WITH A PACKAGE PLAN ENABLING SOME TYPE OF FISHING RIGHTS AND INFRA-STRUCTURE FINANCING FOR SHORESIDE SUPPORT OF THEIR FISHING ACTIVITY THAT WOULD ALSO MEET ARGENTINE NATIONAL GOALS OF PROVIDING

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EMPLOYMENT. SOURCE MENTIONED THE PROVINCE OF SANTA CRUZ AS BEING A NEEDY AREA FOR THIS TYPE DEVELOPMENT. SOURCE FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SOON BE SENDING AN AIR ATTACHE TO ARGENTINA.

~~(S/NOFORN/WNINTEL)~~ COMMENTS:

A. ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ THE REMARKS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY CINC SPEAK FOR THEMSELF AND PERHAPS CONVEY A POLITICAL MESSAGE NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TODAY.

B. ~~(S/NOFORN)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

HIS COMMENTS ABOUT A FISHING PORT TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE THE SAME TOPIC PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (b)(3):10 USC 424 A SECOND SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN LOCAL PRESS; SOURCE "C" IS THE FIRST TO IDENTIFY HIM AS AIR FORCE.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1):(b) (3):10 USC 424

D. ~~(S/NOFORN/WNINTEL)~~

THIS MSG COORD W/AMEMB.

~~REVW 23 AUG 1999~~

BT

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

ENCL DATA:
1. REPORT, "HUMAN RIGHTS: AMBASSADOR REVIEWS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WITH GENERAL VIOLA." (c)

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OF INTEREST TO CINCSO RE SOVIET

2117472 AUG 79

TELEGRAM

INDICATE

(b)(3):10 USC 424

FROM: AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 12065 ~~XDS 1, 8/21/09 (Castro, Paul H.) OR-2~~

TAGS: AR, SHUM

SUBJECT: ~~(C)~~ Human Rights: Ambassador Reviews Human [illegible] General Viola

ACTION: WASH DC SECSTATE - NIACT IMMEDIA[illegible]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6815

Ref: BA 6782

AMB
DCM
POL
EOL/R
CHRON

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1. ~~(C)~~ Entire text.

2. Summary: General Viola expressed utter amazement of USG's objections over recent raids on Human Rights Establishments. He argued it was a judicial function, wholly without the scope of the Executive. Viola was unable to understand how criticism could be levelled at what is a legal, independent act of the judiciary. He also strongly denied the existence of any clandestine camps and appeared to be wounded on what he called charges of killing prisoners. Viola also explained Soviet military are in Argentina on a frolic of their own, at request of Soviet Ambassador, but in no way will GOA permit courses to be taught by Soviets. Viola stated Timerman release is still probable but not too likely at the moment. He was furnished with two names of recent disappeared so his office can check on their status. End Summary.

DRAFTED BY: Ambassador Castro:mmp | TELEPHONE: 8-21-79 | EXT: 200 | APPROVED BY: Ambassador Castro

CLEARANCES:

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BA-9
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3. I was unable to meet with General Viola last week due to his official commitments in Paraguay. He agreed to confer with me in his office yesterday (Aug.20) at 18:30 hrs. Multiple topics were discussed.

4. Raid on Human Rights Establishments: General Viola proclaimed surprise at USG criticism over court-ordered raids on human rights establishments. He professed shock at a foreign govt. objection to a legal act performed by an independent judiciary. He emphasized there was no way the Executive Branch would dare interfere with a judicial act. He went into a long dissertation on how GOA was supporting and encouraging judicial independence. I expressed deep appreciation to Viola over this fact inasmuch as I had been a member of an independent judiciary in the U. S. for over seven years. I explained to Viola USG was not questioning the legality or jurisdiction of the court over the subject matter. I told him Department was concerned over bad image created over raids and also it appeared to be a pre-determined act to impair the findings of IAHRC during its visit next month. Viola agreed and stated the timing was most unfortunate. He also said his govt. was sick over the event. They would have much preferred that this maverick judge would have stayed at home and done nothing. Viola stated someone in govt tried to approach the Judge after the act, but to no avail, as the Judge is feeling his oats and drunk with power.

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He described the Judge as being a "pelotudo" and for the sake of not being mundane I shall not translate it. It's an expletive of the worst kind in Argentina, certainly not fitting for a Judge.

5. Jacobo Timerman: fter listening to all the sweet notes on judicial independence, I told Viola it was extremely unfortunate judicial independence had not been honored in the Timerman case. I again reminded Viola of Timerman's exoneration by the military tribunal and by the Argentine Supreme Court. I asked him why judicial independence had been scrapped in the Timerman case. Viola agreed on the inconsistency and for the hundredth time since I have known him, he repeated his desire to have Timerman released. He then asked me if I had talked to General Suárez Mason, alleged culprit behind Jacobo's incarceration. I told Viola I had discussed the matter once with Suárez Mason, but was waiting for another opportune moment to again discuss the subject. It was clear to me Viola felt Timerman's release was probable but not imminent--certainly not within the next ten days.

6. Law of the Sea: I explained to Viola media presentations on USG policy on law of the sea was "much to do about nothing". Viola agreed media had given appearance US destroyers, submarines and gunboats were on Argentine shores ready to strike. He accepted USG had no direct or indirect intentions

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towards Argentina reference law of the sea.

7. Clandestine Camps and Killing of Prisoners: I told Viola local and international rumors were widespread--being reported by serious and honorable people--that Argentina was flooded with clandestine camps, holding prisoners, who were being executed prior to IAHRC arrival. One would have thought Viola had sat on a tack as he jumped up and strongly protested such allegations. He reminded me this subject had been raised by me, in an informal fashion, numerous times and he had always denied such charges. Viola stated he felt my raising the point again today was in a more serious vein due to the pending arrival of IAHRC. He told me that if we (USG) had such brilliant intelligence sources then GOA would appreciate our Embassy coming before the Junta and outline names and locations of these clandestine camps and the whereabouts of these prisoners. I made it clear to Viola these rumors were not attributable to any USG source. He said he was grateful for this. By this time Viola had cooled off and he returned to his same charming self. He characterized these rumors as just plain, foolish talk.

8. Two Disappeared Persons: I gave Viola the dates and facts over the disappearance of Juan Carlos Anzorena, 28, on August 12. He was also given the name of Pablo Armando Lepiscopo, who disappeared on August 5. I told Viola USG

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would be grateful for his assistance in determining the status of these two people. He promised to look into the matter and give me a report.

9. Soviet Officers: An expression of US concern was given Viola over the visit of a Soviet General and several officers to Argentina. Viola looked at me and said "Your government really isn't concerned about Soviets visiting us?" I replied these weren't just simple Soviet citizens but military personnel supposedly coming to lecture and perhaps teach at the War College and other military facilities. He then explained the Soviet Ambassador had approached them on the possibility of developing a military contact with Soviet officers. Viola also explained Junta members had considered the Soviet officers visit and agreed to permit them to visit the country for about one week and talk at different military institutions. Viola said under no circumstances would the Soviets ever be permitted to give courses anywhere in Argentina. He also stated there was a probability of Argentine officers visiting Soviet Union soon. He explained no Argentine officer would ever be permitted to take any course in the Soviet Union. To strengthen his case, Viola stated GOA had not purchased any military material from the Soviets, even though it would have been advantageous--price wise. Viola stated it was disgusting how in the UN voting--and other international organizations--Argentina

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was able to get support from the Soviets and other Communist countries and yet be rejected by the US and other supposedly democratic nations. He said the USG was forcing its hand and showing them how to deal with traditional USG enemies.

10. Comment: Viola expressed sincere concern over the IAHRC visit and his view was Argentina would fare much better than most people expected. He was of the opinion that under no circumstances should the IAHRC visit be delayed or cancelled. This same view was shared by the FonMin during my last meeting. In fact the FonMin told me much pressure was being exerted on Dr. Aguilar, President of IAHRC, by US human rights organizations to cancel the visit. FonMin quoted Aguilar as stating that under no circumstances would the visit be cancelled, regardless of wherever the pressures came from. Readers should keep in mind this meeting took place before Viola learned of the August 20 Spokesman's statement to the effect Embassy was investigating reports of killing prisoners.

CASTRO

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